## REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated August 28, 2006. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In light of the Office Action, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13-16, and 18-20 to further clarify the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application in light of the following remarks.

On page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,013,108 to Karolys. Claims 5 and 21 are rejected as obvious in light of the '108 Karolys patent in combination with an article describing RS-485. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, and instead, submit that the claims as presented are patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the '108 Karolys patent nowhere teaches or suggests "commencing performance of the function at each data channel at the same predetermined time using a predetermined transition in the message as a trigger, such that the plurality of data channels can perform the function simultaneously in a time-deterministic manner," as is recited in the independent claims. Specifically, in the claimed invention, each of the data channels monitors a transmitted command from the bus controller. When the channels detect a predetermined transition in the message, they perform the function outlined in the command. As best understood, the '108 Karolys system does not disclose such a method.

Specifically, the Office Action points to the portion of the specification of the '108 Karolys patent that discusses synchronization. It appears that the '108 Karolys patent discloses sole use of clocks located at each network device interface for synchronization, as opposed to a trigger located in the command message. It is first noted, that while mentioned, the '108 Karolys patent does not disclose much in the way of how synchronization is performed. The '108 Karolys patent discloses that the host sets "the internal real-time clock 206 of each TBIM for synchronization purposes." (Col. 6, lines 5-6). The '108 Karolys patent further discloses that "[d]ata is acquired and transmitted in a continuous process synchronized by the BCM 28." (Col.

5, lines 9-11). The '108 Karolys patent nowhere teaches or suggests synchronizing data channels using a trigger located in the transmitted command. Instead, it appears that the '108 Karolys patent discloses locating a clock at each data channel, and using the clocks to synchronize the function of the data channels. While it is true that the system described in the '108 Karolys patent uses a UART protocol that transmits commands as serial bits, it does not disclose use of transitions in the bits as triggers. Instead, as best understood, the system uses the clocks to perform synchronization.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 16, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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